Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

2025–26 Departmental Results Report

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, MP

Minister of Industry and Minister responsible

for Canada Economic Development

for Quebec Regions

Canada

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Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's 2025–26 Departmental Results Report

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At a glance

This departmental results report details the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's (SSHRC) actual accomplishments against the plans, priorities and expected results outlined in its 2025–26 Departmental Plan.

These results align with the priorities outlined in the May 21, 2025, mandate letter from the Prime Minister, as well as with SSHRC's vision, mission, raison d'être and operating context.

Key priorities

SSHRC identified the following key priorities for 2025–26:

- Implementing new investments in SSHRC and the other federal research funding agencies, particularly those supporting the newly harmonized talent program, Indigenous research, and the tri-agency grants management solution.
- Continuing to deliver core programming during a period of considerable uncertainty and change, including implementing improvements to programs and policies and supporting equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility across the organization and research community.
- Positioning SSHRC as an essential partner in the research ecosystem by strengthening the visibility and impact of social sciences and humanities research through stakeholder engagement, strategic partnerships, and advancing research and talent to address Canada's and the world's most pressing challenges.

Highlights

Through grants and scholarships, SSHRC promotes and supports research and research training in the social sciences and humanities as well as interdisciplinary research. The agency seeks to develop talent, generate insights and build connections that advance social, cultural and economic knowledge for the benefit of all Canadians. Expert merit review by a committee of peers is at the heart of the granting process, to ensure the highest standards of excellence. Through its regular grants and scholarships funding programs, SSHRC provided more than 6,000 awards in 2025–26, while engaging almost 5,000 researchers in the merit review process.

In addition to its own initiatives, the agency administers several research funding programs on behalf of Canada’s three federal research funding agencies: SSHRC, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). Collectively, these tri-agency programs enhance Canada’s research capacity by supporting ambitious research agendas, enabling interdisciplinary and collaborative research that addresses global challenges, and strengthening Canadian institutions through support that helps maintain a strong research environment.

The next section highlights specific initiatives undertaken in 2025–26 in support of SSHRC's key priorities and departmental results.

- Total actual spending (including internal services): $1,327,899,606
- Total full-time equivalent staff (including internal services): 427

For detailed information on SSHRC’s total spending and human resources, read the Spending and human resources section of this report.

Summary of results

The following provides a summary of the results the department achieved in 2025–26 under its “core responsibilities” (its main areas of activity).

Core responsibility 1: Funding social sciences and humanities research and training

Actual spending: $824,913,146

Actual human resources: 277

In 2025–26, SSHRC invested $603 million to support nearly 13,000 researchers through grants at postsecondary institutions across Canada, $79 million of which was spent by researchers to support the participation of research trainees in their SSHRC-funded projects. An additional $179 million investment directly supported almost 5,000 students through scholarships and postdoctoral awards.

Departmental Result 1: Canada's social sciences and humanities research is internationally competitive.

SSHRC worked to support a dynamic research community actively engaged in producing high-quality, internationally competitive research in the social sciences and humanities. This was achieved through delivering its core funding opportunities, promoting joint initiatives with international partners, and administering tri-agency programs that enhance Canada's research capacity and drive long-term social and economic benefits.

- The Eddie Goldenberg Research Chairs of Canada and Canada Impact+ Emerging Leaders programs were launched to enable Canadian institutions to recruit top-tier international talent to Canada.
- Through the New Frontiers in Research Fund, SSHRC launched the 2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing Disruptive Technologies to Address Global Challenges to support international, interdisciplinary research aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- SSHRC advanced international research collaboration through targeted initiatives on artificial intelligence with partners in the United Kingdom, France and the United States, including the launch of a humanities-led interdisciplinary "sandpit" to position humanities perspectives at the centre of artificial intelligence technology design.
- SSHRC awarded 47 Destination Horizon Grants to help Canadian researchers participate in international research collaborations and build the capacity and networks needed to compete in Horizon Europe.

Departmental Result 2: Canada has a pool of diverse and highly skilled people in the social sciences and humanities.

To increase the pool of highly skilled people in fields in the social sciences and humanities, SSHRC supported the training of the next generation of researchers and knowledge workers through grants, scholarships and postdoctoral awards. The agency also pursued a variety of initiatives that foster a more equitable and inclusive research ecosystem.

- SSHRC delivered the first competitions under the Canada Research Training Awards Suite, and implemented increased award values and enhanced travel supplements to better support graduate students and postdoctoral researchers.

- SSHRC advanced Indigenous research leadership and capacity by delivering three new tri-agency funding opportunities, including stage 1 of the Indigenous Innovation and Leadership in Research Network Grants, which aim to support Indigenous-led postsecondary institutions and not-for-profit organizations.
- Along with NSERC, SSHRC fostered a more equitable and accessible research ecosystem by launching its new accessibility plan for 2026–28.

Departmental Result 3: Canada's social sciences and humanities research knowledge is used.

SSHRC funded world-class research that helps address current and future challenges facing Canada and the world. Through knowledge mobilization, strategic partnerships and open research practices, SSHRC aims to increase the use of research evidence to inform policy and decision-making across sectors, maximizing the impact of social sciences and humanities research for the benefit of Canadians.

- SSHRC awarded the first 15-year Policy Innovation Partnership Grant, on Canada's productivity and long-term prosperity, establishing a new model for collaboration between researchers and policy-makers to support evidence-informed decision-making.
- SSHRC advanced the mobilization and use of research knowledge by delivering a new Imagining Canada's Future Knowledge Synthesis Grants competition on The Arts Transformed, which explores how technological advancements and global shifts are reshaping the arts.
- SSHRC strengthened the accessibility, transparency and security of research knowledge by supporting the transition to immediate open access through the renewed Aid to Scholarly Journals funding opportunity; advancing responsible data stewardship through the Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy; and integrating research security measures, including implementing the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern in designated programs.

For more information on SSHRC's activities related to Funding social sciences and humanities research and training, read the "Results: What we achieved" section of this report.

Core responsibility 2: Institutional support for the indirect costs of research

Actual spending: $482,761,946

Actual human resources: 6

The Research Support Fund (RSF) reinforces the federal government's investment in research by helping institutions ensure their federally funded research projects are conducted in world-class facilities with the best equipment and administrative support available. In 2025–26, the RSF provided $369.4 million in grants to 156 postsecondary institutions to offset the indirect costs of managing the research funded by the three federal research funding agencies. Through its Incremental Project Grants stream, the RSF provided an additional $88.7 million to support 241 projects at 33 institutions. This past year, a new reporting framework was implemented, with 92%

of reporting institutions strongly agreeing that RSF base funding contributed to sustaining a strong research environment.

For more information on SSHRC's activities related to Institutional support for the indirect costs of research, read the "Results: What we achieved" section of this report.

From the Minister



The Honourable Mélanie Joly
Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

It is our pleasure to present the 2025–26 Departmental Results Report for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

The strength of our economy and society depends on our ability to generate new ideas, develop highly skilled talent and make informed decisions in a rapidly changing world. Research in the social sciences and humanities provides critical insights into the complex challenges facing Canadians, helping shape effective public policies, strengthen communities, and support long-term growth and prosperity.

At a pivotal moment for global research and innovation, SSHRC took a leading role in launching and delivering programs supporting the new Canada Global Impact+ Research Talent Initiative, on behalf of Canada's three federal research funding agencies. Through an investment of $1.7 billion over 12 years, the initiative will attract leading international and expatriate researchers, expand Canada's research capacity, and accelerate innovation, helping Canada remain at the forefront of discovery and competitiveness in the global knowledge economy.

SSHRC also advanced the government’s commitment to reconciliation through new research funding opportunities that support Indigenous leadership, research capacity and Indigenous knowledge systems. These opportunities contribute to a stronger and more inclusive research ecosystem, while supporting priorities identified by First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples.

By fostering collaboration among leading researchers in Canada and around the world, SSHRC is helping generate knowledge that addresses shared challenges and opportunities, from emerging technologies to sustainable development. At the same time, SSHRC is working with its federal partners to advance a more coordinated and accessible research funding system, strengthen research security, and ensure that publicly funded research is widely shared and used to inform decisions that support Canada's economic and social well-being.

We invite you to read this report to learn more about how SSHRC is working with partners across the country to support Canadian businesses, foster innovation and create opportunities for today and for future generations to come.

The Honourable Mélanie Joly
Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

From the President



Normand Labrie
Interim SSHRC President

I am pleased to present the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's Departmental Results Report for 2025–26.

At a time of rapid technological change, growing geopolitical uncertainty and increasingly complex social challenges, research in the social sciences and humanities has never been more important. It helps us understand the forces shaping our society, informs public policy, strengthens communities and institutions, and ensures that innovation reflects the needs and values of Canadians. Throughout the past year, SSHRC continued to invest in the people, partnerships and ideas that will enable Canada to remain a global leader in research and innovation.

SSHRC-funded research attracts recognition beyond Canada's borders, top talent from around the world, and funding from the international organizations that sign on as partners. One of our key priorities this year was implementing new federal investments to strengthen Canada's research enterprise. As part of the Government of Canada's strategy to attract and retain world-class research talent, SSHRC, in collaboration with the other federal research funding agencies, launched their programs under the new Canada Global Impact+ Research Talent Initiative. The Eddie Goldenberg Research Chairs of Canada and Canada Impact+ Emerging Leaders programs, along with the Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards, recruit leading researchers, emerging researchers and highly talented students and postdoctoral researchers from around the world to Canadian institutions.

Addressing today's most pressing challenges requires collaboration among researchers and research funders around the world. With funding organizations both domestically and abroad, SSHRC creates opportunities for Canadian researchers to work across disciplines, sectors and borders to generate new knowledge and develop solutions with global impact. This year, these efforts included the New Frontiers in Research Fund's joint call on disruptive technologies and global challenges, as well as new initiatives in artificial intelligence research. These opportunities enable Canadian researchers to contribute to transformative discoveries while reinforcing Canada's role as a trusted global research partner.

Alongside targeted calls and special initiatives, SSHRC also continued to innovate within its core programming. For example, its Policy Innovation Partnership Grants—a new pilot opportunity to support long-term, high-impact research partnerships between postsecondary institutions and federal departments—aims to generate evidence that directly informs public policy. The inaugural competition awarded a 15-year grant to establish a national research partnership on improving Canada's productivity.

Ensuring that the results of publicly funded research are widely available to researchers, policy-makers, practitioners and the public maximizes its benefits to society. This year, SSHRC renewed its Aid to Scholarly Journals funding opportunity, providing additional support to Canadian journals as they transition to immediate open access. Further, the three agencies continued to develop their open access policy to ensure all agency-funded, peer-reviewed research articles are immediately and freely available online.

In partnership with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and Canadian Institutes of Health Research, SSHRC supported Indigenous-led research, networks and capacity building through the delivery of three new funding opportunities. These investments foster Indigenous leadership, strengthen partnerships, and support initiatives that reflect the priorities, knowledge systems and aspirations of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples.

SSHRC's ongoing commitment is to support research excellence, develop Canada's research talent, strengthen partnerships and ensure the knowledge generated delivers lasting benefits to build a more prosperous, inclusive and resilient future for all Canadians.

Normand Labrie
Interim SSHRC President

Results: What we achieved

Core responsibilities and internal services

- Core responsibility 1: Funding social sciences and humanities research and training
- Core responsibility 2: Institutional support for the indirect costs of research
- Internal services

Core responsibility 1: Funding social sciences and humanities research and training

In this section

- Description
- Quality of life impacts
- Progress on results
- Details on results
- Resources required to achieve results
- Related government priorities
- Program inventory

Description

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), through grants and scholarships, promotes and supports research and research training in the social sciences and humanities to develop talent, generate insights and build connections in pursuit of social, cultural and economic outcomes for Canadians.

Quality of life impacts

Considering the topics and application of the findings from funded research, SSHRC's programs and activities have direct and indirect impacts on most quality of life indicators. This core responsibility contributes particularly to the "Prosperity" domain of the Quality of Life Framework for Canada, more specifically to "Investment in in-house research and development" and "Postsecondary attainment" through all the activities mentioned in the core responsibility description.

Progress on results

This section details the department's performance against its targets for each departmental result under Core responsibility 1: Funding social sciences and humanities research and training.

Table 1.1 shows the target, the date to achieve the target and the actual result for each indicator under Canada's social sciences and humanities research is internationally competitive in the last three fiscal years.

Table 1.1: Canada's social sciences and humanities research is internationally competitive

Departmental result indicator	Target	Date to achieve target	Actual result
Canada's rank among Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations on the citation score of social sciences and humanities research publications	In the top 10	March 2026	2023–24: 27 2024–25: 27 2025–26: 28
Percentage of funded projects involving international collaborations	At least 55%	March 2026	2023–24: 57% 2024–25: 63% 2025–26: 56%
Number of research projects funded jointly by SSHRC and international partner(s)	At least 9	March 2026	2023–24: 7 2024–25: 46 2025–26: 29

Table 1.2 shows the target, the date to achieve the target and the actual result for each indicator under Canada has a pool of diverse and highly skilled people in the social sciences and humanities in the last three fiscal years.

Table 1.2: Canada has a pool of diverse and highly skilled people in the social sciences and humanities

Departmental result indicator	Target	Date to achieve target	Actual result
Percentage of newly funded recipients who self-identify as women	At least 51%	March 2026	2023–24: 57.9% 2024–25: 56.1% 2025–26: 58.6%
Percentage of newly funded recipients who self-identify as visible minorities	At least 23%	March 2026	2023–24: 22.2% 2024–25: 23.9% 2025–26: 25.0%
Percentage of newly funded recipients who self-identify as Indigenous Peoples	At least 5%	March 2026	2023–24: 2.8% 2024–25: 3.3% 2025–26: 3.2%

Departmental result indicator	Target	Date to achieve target	Actual result
Percentage of newly funded recipients who self-identify as persons with disabilities	At least 9%	March 2026	2023–24: 10.5% 2024–25: 11.0% 2025–26: 10.9%
Number of research trainees supported through grants	At least 6,000	March 2026	2023–24: 7,774 2024–25: 21,303 2025–26: 8,198
Number of research trainees supported by SSHRC through scholarships and fellowships	At least 4,500	March 2026	2023–24: 4,880 2024–25: 5,302 2025–26: 4,954
Percentage of funded research trainees who go on to work in a research position	At least 55%	March 2026	2023–24: 62% 2024–25: 74% 2025–26: 63%

Table 1.3 shows the target, the date to achieve the target and the actual result for each indicator under Canada's social sciences and humanities research knowledge is used in the last three fiscal years.

Table 1.3: Canada's social sciences and humanities research knowledge is used

Departmental result indicator	Target	Date to achieve target	Actual result
Funding from non-academic partners for research projects	At least $35 million	March 2026	2023–24: $38,384,217 2024–25: $34,990,654 2025–26: $36,651,817
Number of non-academic partners in research projects	At least 850	March 2026	2023–24: 683 2024–25: 820 2025–26: 960
Percentage of grants reporting non-academic collaborator(s) in the research process	At least 70%	March 2026	2023–24: 73% 2024–25: 69% 2025–26: 72%
Percentage of funded projects reporting socioeconomic outcomes for Canadians	At least 75%	March 2026	2023–24: 79% 2024–25: 79% 2025–26: 82%

The Results section of the Infographic for SSHRC on GC Infobase provides additional information on results and performance related to its program inventory.

Details on results

The following section describes the results for "Funding social sciences and humanities research and training" in 2025–26 compared with the planned results set out in SSHRC's departmental plan for the year.

Canada's social sciences and humanities research is internationally competitive

Results achieved

To ensure that Canada's social sciences and humanities research remains internationally competitive, it is essential to have a strong cohort of researchers actively engaged in producing high-quality work on par with international partners. SSHRC's increasing support for a vibrant research community plays a vital role in sustaining Canada's position as a global leader in research excellence. SSHRC awards highly competitive funding to scholars and students through rigorous, independent merit reviews aligned with international best practices.

International collaborations are one of the mechanisms through which Canada's social sciences and humanities research becomes internationally competitive. SSHRC's core funding programs provide important opportunities for Canadian researchers to work together with international scholars. On average, 56% of SSHRC-funded projects involve collaborations with international researchers. Such collaborations enable researchers to learn from their colleagues, share a diversity of perspectives, and foster the development of critical new knowledge at the forefront of their fields, while enhancing Canada's reputation as a global centre for research excellence. SSHRC also pursues targeted joint initiatives with international funding partners, in areas of strategic importance to Canada. This provides additional opportunities for researchers to collaborate internationally on specific research topics or themes. SSHRC's international framework, developed in 2022, helps guide its investments and advance international engagements across SSHRC and the other federal research funding agencies.

Several tri-agency programs administered by SSHRC strengthen Canada's ability to be internationally competitive in research areas that create long-term social and economic advantages for Canada. One example is the New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF), which supports world-leading, interdisciplinary, international and emerging research that is high risk, high reward and transformative. Projects supported by this fund address major societal challenges and have the potential to lead to lasting impacts in science, technology and society. More recently, SSHRC is delivering a new suite of funding opportunities on behalf of the three agencies, supported by a $1.7 billion investment over 12 years, to accelerate Canadian innovation, growth and prosperity. This includes the Eddie Goldenberg Research Chairs of Canada and Canada Impact+ Emerging Leaders programs through which Canadian institutions will recruit world-leading researchers and early career researchers in priority research areas. It also includes the Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards, designed to recruit international or returning Canadian students and postdoctoral researchers to Canada, strengthening the research ecosystem and enhancing global competitiveness.

SSHRC is committed to strengthening research funding systems and culture—for example, by using interdisciplinary review committees to encourage innovative, cross-cutting research in its funding programs, and by engaging externally with organizations such as the Research on Research Institute. SSHRC is one of more than18 partners from 12 countries involved with the institute, whose mission is to improve how research is funded, practised, communicated and evaluated. SSHRC is also a signatory of the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)—a global initiative to foster research excellence by ensuring robust, equitable and impactful measures for research assessment. Supporting such research excellence ultimately helps Canadian researchers and institutions to both lead on a global stage and drive innovations that address the most pressing societal challenges.

In 2025–26, SSHRC undertook several initiatives in support of its first departmental result.

Promoting international collaborations and addressing global challenges

- SSHRC strengthened international collaboration in artificial intelligence (AI) research through several initiatives:
    - In partnership with the United Kingdom's UK Research and Innovation Arts and Humanities Research Council, SSHRC launched a humanities-led interdisciplinary "sandpit" initiative to help position humanities perspectives at the centre of AI technology design. Sixty researchers participated in a series of workshops to develop project ideas for further funding in 2026–27.
    - SSHRC partnered with the United States' Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and UK Research and Innovation to support two-year postdoctoral fellowships in the emerging field of metascience and AI. SSHRC awarded a total of $700,000 to five Canadian early career researchers to examine AI's impact on research practice.
    - The results of the Canada-France joint initiative on artificial intelligence were announced in 2025–26. SSHRC, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), in collaboration with the research and knowledge mobilization consortium IVADO and in partnership with the French National Research Agency, funded 10 collaborative Canada–France research projects, representing a total Canadian investment of over $3 million. SSHRC funded one project, investing $300,000.
- SSHRC launched the Eddie Goldenberg Research Chairs of Canada and Canada Impact+ Emerging Leaders programs, with results expected in 2026–27.
- The research projects funded through the NFRF 2024 NordForsk-led International Joint Initiative on Sustainable Development of the Arctic continued to advance, through participation in an in-person meeting hosted by NordForsk. The meeting fostered knowledge sharing across projects and led to increased interproject collaboration and coordination.
- The first evaluation of NFRF was completed in 2025–26, confirming that the program is addressing a gap in federal research funding by attracting and supporting interdisciplinary research teams and projects that extend beyond conventional research approaches.

Did you know?

SSHRC continued to support Canada's association with Horizon Europe through Destination Horizon Grants, which provide up to $15,000 over one year (matched by a grantee's institution) to help Canadian researchers build partnerships and develop proposals for Horizon Europe Pillar II: Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness. In 2025–26, SSHRC funded 47 grants, representing an investment of approximately $640,000.

Improving research and funding practices in alignment with the international community

- This year, along with the other federal research funding agencies, SSHRC became an institutional member of DORA at the sustainer level, providing the agencies with a seat on DORA's international steering committee for the next three years.
- SSHRC assumed the role of co-chair of the Partnership Board of the Research on Research Institute and continued to actively participate in projects examining issues relevant to research funders, such as how to strengthen the impact of research, and the impact of AI on funding practices.

Canada has a pool of diverse and highly skilled people in the social sciences and humanities

Results achieved

Canada's research capacity depends on its ability to develop, attract and retain highly skilled research talent. SSHRC is committed to supporting the next generation of researchers and knowledge workers by fostering the knowledge, competencies and skills needed to address the challenges of today and tomorrow. Recognizing that equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility are essential to a vibrant research environment and research excellence, the agency advances initiatives and policies that support the participation of researchers from all backgrounds and enable research in both official languages. Guided by the Tri-agency Research Training Strategy, SSHRC delivers the Canada Research Training Awards Suite, comprising graduate scholarships, postdoctoral awards and related supplements. The harmonized approach across the federal research funding agencies aims to deliver simplified, modernized and inclusive research training programs, while enhancing researcher mobility, international portability, and financial support.

SSHRC's commitment to research excellence includes strengthening Indigenous self-determination, leadership and capacity in research and research training, and respecting Indigenous Knowledge systems. The agency continues to support research by and with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples to advance reconciliation. Guidance from its Indigenous Advisory Circle (soon to be renamed the Advisory Circle on Indigenous Research) supports this commitment. In collaboration with NSERC, CIHR, and the Canada Research Coordinating Committee, SSHRC promotes Indigenous research and training through activities guided by the Indigenous Leadership Circle in Research and the tri-agency strategic plan Setting new directions to support Indigenous research and research training in Canada. The plan establishes four directions to advance Indigenous research and co-develop with Indigenous Peoples an interdisciplinary research and research training model that contributes to reconciliation.

Under the leadership of the Canada Research Coordinating Committee, SSHRC continues to implement the Tri-Agency Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan. The plan outlines measures aimed at enhancing equitable access to agency funding opportunities, fostering an inclusive postsecondary research culture in Canada, and driving system-wide transformation of the research enterprise.

SSHRC has taken targeted action to support equitable access to opportunities for Black scholars, both through its own suite of initiatives and by working in collaboration with CIHR and NSERC. Through the ongoing Black scholar initiative, introduced in 2023–24, SSHRC and the other federal research funding agencies offer dedicated funds—via existing tri-agency scholarship and postdoctoral award programs—to increase the number of Black research trainees, including undergraduate students. SSHRC also developed an agency-specific Action Plan for Black Researchers (2024–2029), through an open and inclusive process of dialogue with Black researchers, Black research trainees and institutional stakeholders.

Finally, in accordance with the *Accessible Canada Act*, SSHRC continues its work to identify and remove barriers that hinder the participation of persons with disabilities in the research ecosystem.

In 2025–26, SSHRC undertook several initiatives in support of its second departmental result.

Building a robust system to enhance research training

- SSHRC delivered the first competitions under the Canada Research Training Awards Suite and implemented increased award values. The agencies also implemented the redesigned travel supplements for master's and doctoral students to better support research travel experiences within Canada or abroad, including an increase in the supplement value from $6,000 to $9,000.
- The Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards initiative was launched this year to attract and retain world-class doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers whose work addresses Canada's most pressing social, health, economic, environmental and technological challenges, further strengthening Canada's research talent pipeline and long-term research capacity.

Delivering on commitments for Indigenous Peoples

- Following the 2024 federal budget commitment of $30 million to strengthen Indigenous participation in research, SSHRC, CIHR and NSERC delivered three funding opportunities supporting Indigenous-led research, collaboration and capacity building:
    - The Indigenous Capacity and Leadership in Research Connection Grants funded 16 projects focused on First Nations and Métis research priorities, with the agencies investing nearly $800,000.
    - The Indigenous Innovation and Leadership in Research Network Grants–Stage 1 supported 25 one-year grants to help applicants establish network objectives, partnerships and research priorities, to then compete for Stage 2 funding. With tri-agency investments exceeding $1.87 million, these grants are designed to increase Indigenous leadership and capacities in research in Indigenous-led postsecondary institutions and not-for-profit organizations.

    - The Inuit Research Network Grant (Phase 3) was awarded to the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. The grant represents a tri-agency investment of $10 million over four years to expand the Inuit Research Network and strengthen Inuit-led research and knowledge-sharing.
- SSHRC led the implementation of key elements of the Tri-Agency Policy on Indigenous Citizenship and Membership Affirmation, including supporting its adoption within the Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements Pilot Initiative. SSHRC also led the process to appoint members to the Integrity Advisory Committee associated with the Policy. The members will provide recommendations to agency presidents on recourse in response to any allegations of misrepresentation.

Did you know?

The Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements Pilot Initiative is one of the mechanisms developed by the agency to remove some of the barriers Indigenous students experience in pursuing successful education pathways. Through this initiative, every year SSHRC offers awards and/or supplemental financial support to Indigenous students who have successfully applied to the Canada Graduate Research Scholarship—Master's program. In 2025–26, SSHRC supported 77 Indigenous students through the program, for a total investment of $1,285,000.

Fostering a research ecosystem that promotes equitable opportunities for all researchers

- In line with SSHRC's commitment to supporting equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), the agency launched its new accessibility plan (a joint plan with NSERC for 2026 to 2028) to identify, remove and prevent barriers to accessibility in external programs and internal activities. Moreover, SSHRC, in collaboration with the other federal research funding agencies, launched updated learning modules to help peer and merit reviewers recognize and mitigate bias, supporting accessible, equitable and responsible research assessment.
- The Canada Research Chairs Program strengthened its equity requirements in 2025–26 by introducing EDI action plan requirements for participating small institutions. The program also continued to require institutions to meet equity targets by established deadlines in accordance with legal settlement agreements, with 82% of institutions meeting their targets in 2025–26.
- EDI was embedded as a foundational principle in the design of the new tri-agency Eddie Goldenberg Research Chairs of Canada program and the 2026 Canada Excellence Research Chairs competition, including in their objectives, expected outcomes and reporting requirements.
- The inaugural tri-agency Dimensions Canada grants were launched, providing up to $100,000 over one year for collaborative projects that strengthen EDI capacity at Canadian postsecondary institutions and develop shared tools and resources to advance systemic change in the research ecosystem.

Canada's social sciences and humanities research knowledge is used

Results achieved

SSHRC advances world-class research in the social sciences and humanities that helps address current and future challenges facing Canada and the world. Recognizing that the application of

research is essential to building resilient communities, strengthening the economy, enriching Canada's cultural landscape and improving quality of life, SSHRC is committed to increasing the mobilization and use of knowledge generated through funded research. This commitment is reflected in knowledge mobilization requirements embedded in most SSHRC funding opportunities, dedicated funding opportunities that support knowledge mobilization activities, and initiatives that foster stronger relationships across sectors. Through these efforts, SSHRC facilitates the exchange and application of research knowledge by connecting researchers with community partners, stakeholders and end-users to inform policy and practice in the public, private and not-for-profit spheres.

The Policy Innovation Partnership Grants exemplify this approach by supporting long-term, high-impact research partnerships in areas of key importance to Canada's future. By bringing together researchers, policy-makers and other partners, the program aims to generate evidence and knowledge that can inform policy development and address complex challenges. Each competition targets a new area where social sciences and humanities research is well positioned to contribute. The inaugural competition focuses on Canada's productivity, supporting research that explores the conditions needed to enhance Canada's competitiveness, economic performance and long-term prosperity.

In addition to supporting long-term research partnerships, SSHRC's Imagining Canada's Future initiative accelerates the exchange and use of research knowledge to better inform policy, and to respond to emerging economic and social challenges for Canada. Knowledge Synthesis Grants support researchers in producing reports that analyze existing knowledge on specific questions or issues and identify knowledge gaps. Findings are shared in evidence briefs and in national knowledge mobilization forums that bring together researchers, diverse stakeholders and cross-sectoral policy-makers to enable evidence-based decision-making, the adoption of best practices, and the development of future research agendas.

To promote and celebrate the value of social sciences and humanities research to society, SSHRC engages in strategic communication activities and delivers a range of initiatives, including the annual Impact Awards and Storytellers Challenge, research stories, and public talks. These initiatives share research results that illustrate to a wide array of audiences how SSHRC-funded research generates insights and impacts on issues that matter to Canadians.

By supporting open science, SSHRC is also at the forefront of reshaping scientific research practices. Open science, including responsible data stewardship, strengthens the research enterprise, enhances research excellence, and reinforces trust in research results. To ensure the benefits of research are fully realized, SSHRC advances open research by promoting open access to research results and their underlying data. Making research results transparent and accessible makes it possible to create more direct pathways to translate academic insights into actionable knowledge that maximizes the impact of research, for everyone's benefit.

In 2025–26, SSHRC undertook several initiatives in support of its third departmental result.

Advancing the mobilization and use of research knowledge

- As part of the Imagining Canada's Future initiative, SSHRC delivered a new Knowledge Synthesis Grant competition on "The Arts Transformed," with 41 grants awarded. This topic explores how technological advancements and global shifts are reshaping the arts, impacting creativity, accessibility and the cultural landscape.
- A knowledge mobilization forum was hosted in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada and Genome Canada on "Global Health and Wellness for the 21st Century", bringing together researchers and cross-sector policy-makers to accelerate the dissemination and application of research findings.
- SSHRC continued to address emerging economic and social challenges in Canada through a foresight project in collaboration with Policy Horizons Canada. The project will identify the next set of future challenge areas for the Imagining Canada's Future initiative. The final report is expected in early 2026-27.
- SSHRC highlighted the value of funded research and strengthened its visibility within government by facilitating a visit by the 2025 Impact Award winners to Parliament Hill to receive formal recognition in the House of Commons, followed by engagement with Parliamentarians. SSHRC subsequently hosted a public talk with the 2025 Gold Medal winner, Dr. Myriam Denov, on what we learn from children affected by and involved in war. SSHRC also launched a new series of features, promoted through its website and other channels, to highlight insights from social sciences and humanities research on issues of importance to Canadians, including productivity and trade.

Did you know?

The first competition of the Policy Innovation Partnership Grants awarded a 15-year grant to the University of Calgary to establish a national research partnership focused on productivity and its role in Canada's long-term resilience and prosperity. The partnership brings together more than 30 team members, six federal government partners, and several university partners from across the country. Through working groups, embedded researcher programs and joint conferences, the partnership will strengthen collaboration between researchers and policy-makers, generating evidence to inform long-term policy and decision-making.

Fostering sound research practices for open access and security

- SSHRC launched and delivered the renewed Aid to Scholarly Journals funding opportunity, integrating a transition mechanism to support journals that adopt immediate open access, thereby increasing researchers' options for journal venues compliant with the revised policy on open access to publications. To enable this transition, the total program budget was increased from $3.3 million to $7.6 million per year.
- SSHRC, CIHR and NSERC published the Draft, Revised Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications, as well as the summary of feedback received on the draft. The revised policy is expected to be finalized and released later in 2026.

- In support of open science and responsible data stewardship, SSHRC, along with CIHR and NSERC, continued implementation of the Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy. To date, 240 postsecondary institutions and research hospitals (91% of those subject to the requirement) have publicly posted their institutional research data management strategies.
- SSHRC continued to implement the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC) and integrate the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships into designated programs. In collaboration with NSERC, CIHR and other federal partners, SSHRC implemented validation processes to support compliance with STRAC**,** while continuing to update the tri-agency research security web page and provide guidance to the research community through information sessions.

Resources required to achieve results

Table 2 provides a summary of the planned and actual spending and full-time equivalents required to achieve results.

Table 2: Snapshot of resources required for funding social sciences and humanities research and training

Resource	Planned	Actual
Spending	$823,998,655	$824,913,146
Full-time equivalents	273	277

The Finances section of the Infographic for SSHRC on GC Infobase and the People section of the Infographic for SSHRC on GC Infobase provide complete financial and human resources information related to its program inventory.

Related government priorities

This section highlights government priorities that are being addressed through this core responsibility.

Gender-based Analysis Plus

As part of SSHRC's ongoing commitment to advance EDI, in 2025–26 the agency continued to apply Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) and EDI approaches in decision-making and review processes, to increase inclusive outcomes for Canadians. As it has done since 2018, the agency collected certain self-identification data from participants in most of its funding opportunities. SSHRC relies on this data, along with data from Statistics Canada and other sources, to monitor application and award rates for population groups for which disaggregated data are available in order to identify potential bias or barriers in our policies and processes. SSHRC publishes the data it collects through various mechanism, including on SSHRC's EDI dashboard. In 2025–26, SSHRC, along with NSERC and CIHR, continued a review of the tri-agency self-identification questionnaire, in consideration of best practices and community stakeholders' feedback, to strengthen the agencies' capacity to collect disaggregated data. This initiative will continue in 2026–27.

United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN Sustainable Development Goals

SSHRC advances the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by delivering essential funding for research, training and knowledge mobilization through both its core programs and innovative initiatives that address global challenges. The research supported by SSHRC generates insights into the societal, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability, ensuring responses to global challenges are informed by a deep understanding of the cultural, social and historical factors that shape human decisions. Through this work, SSHRC contributes to the Government of Canada's commitment to generate new knowledge that supports sustainable development in areas that will provide long-term social and economic advantages for Canada. SSHRC also contributes to the SDGs by strengthening Indigenous self-determination and research capacity through co-developed models that value Indigenous Knowledge systems and by championing EDI across the Canadian research ecosystem. Additionally, the agency remains committed to prioritizing environmentally responsible practices within its operations to further Canada's transition toward a net-zero economy.

In 2025–26, several of SSHRC's investments advance the SDGs:

- Through NFRF, Canada joined research funders from 21 countries to launch the 2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing Disruptive Technologies to Address Global Challenges, supporting international, interdisciplinary research aligned with the SDGs.
- SSHRC continued to support climate action through NFRF's 2023 International Joint Initiative for Research in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, through which this year a midterm forum brought together 32 funded teams to promote collaboration, knowledge sharing and increased research impact.
- SSHRC, in partnership with NSERC and in collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, continued to support research to advance the transition of Canada's agricultural sector toward a net-zero emissions economy by 2050. The Sustainable Agriculture Research Initiative Connection Grants competition was launched to build on previous investments in this area, and support knowledge mobilization activities, including the dissemination and exchange of research results.
- SSHRC partnered with Environment and Climate Change Canada to launch a joint initiative to support partnership research addressing the impacts of plastic pollution on Indigenous communities. The results were announced this year, with six grants awarded.

More information on SSHRC's contributions to Canada's Federal Implementation Plan on the 2030 Agenda and the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy can be found in our Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy and reports on progress.

Artificial intelligence

In 2025–26, SSHRC, in collaboration with CIHR, NSERC and the Canada Foundation for Innovation, advanced efforts to support the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the research funding ecosystem. For example, the agencies updated the Guidance on the use of Artificial Intelligence in the development and review of research grant proposals to better reflect the evolving role of AI tools in research. Key revisions included clarifying disclosure requirements for the use of AI in grant proposals and confirming that reviewers may not use online AI tools during the evaluation process. These updates aim to provide greater clarity for researchers and reviewers, while reducing unnecessary administrative burden and supporting the integrity of the peer review process.

SSHRC also began exploring the responsible use of AI for internal purposes, such as through the introduction of a first wave of Microsoft Copilot licences to better understand potential benefits, risks and organizational needs. The agency engaged in an AI maturity assessment in 2025–26 to help identify conditions and pathways needed to increase AI adoption in ways that would help it deliver on its mandate. To support workforce readiness and the safe and effective adoption of AI tools, SSHRC promoted learning opportunities through the Canada School of Public Service and its Digital Academy, including via a dedicated "Building digital competencies" section in SSHRC's monthly learning email. Additional details on AI-enabled tools and initiatives are included in the Internal Services section below.

Program inventory

Funding social sciences and humanities research and training is supported by the following programs:

- Insight Research
- Research Training and Talent Development
- Research Partnerships
- New Frontiers in Research Fund
- Canada Biomedical Research Fund

Additional information related to the program inventory for Funding social sciences and humanities research and training is available on the Results page on GC InfoBase.

Core responsibility 2: Institutional support for the indirect costs of research

In this section

- Description
- Quality of life impacts
- Progress on results
- Details on results
- Resources required to achieve results

- Related government priorities
- Program inventory

Description

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, on behalf of the three agencies (the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council), provides financial support to universities, colleges and their affiliated research hospitals and institutes so that a portion of the indirect costs associated with funded research can be reimbursed.

Quality of life impacts

This core responsibility contributes to the "Prosperity" domain of the Quality of Life Framework for Canada, more specifically "Investment in in-house research and development" and "Postsecondary attainment" through all the activities mentioned in the core responsibility description.

Progress on results

This section details the department's performance against its targets for each departmental result under Core responsibility 2: Institutional support for the indirect costs of research.

Table 3 shows the target, the date to achieve the target and the actual result for each indicator under Canada's university and college research environments are strong in the last three fiscal years.

Table 3: Canada's university and college research environments are strong

Departmental result indicator	Target	Date to achieve target	Actual result
Total percentage of funds invested in research facilities	25%-35%	March 2026	2023–24: 29% 2024–25: 29% 2025–26: 28%
Total percentage of funds invested in management and administration	30%-40%	March 2026	2023–24: 36% 2024–25: 36% 2025–26: 37%
Average number of Canadian institutions among the top 250 of international university rankings	At least 10	March 2026	2023–24: 11 2024–25: 11 2025–26: 11

The Results section of the Infographic for SSHRC on GC Infobase provides additional information on results and performance related to its program inventory.

Details on results

The following section describes the results for "Institutional support for the indirect costs of research" in 2025–26 compared with the planned results set out in SSHRC's departmental plan for the year.

Canada's university and college research environments are strong

Results achieved

Through various programs, strategic initiatives and policies, the three federal research granting agencies are committed to fostering a robust postsecondary environment that enables the Canadian research community to pursue excellence. The Research Support Fund (RSF)—a tri-agency initiative administered by SSHRC—plays a key role in advancing this objective. The RSF program helps Canadian postsecondary institutions and their affiliated research hospitals and institutes with the indirect costs associated with managing the research funded by the three federal research funding agencies. The program provides institutions with an annual grant to help offset the costs of maintaining a world-class research environment with modern facilities, equipment and essential resources.

The Incremental Project Grants (IPG) funding opportunity is a stream of the RSF that provides eligible institutions with additional support for projects that focus on priority areas aligned with both RSF and government priorities. Budget 2024 increased core research grant funding, along with measures to offset related indirect costs of research. As a result, additional ongoing funds were allocated to the IPG stream starting in 2024–25.

In 2025-26, the RSF achieved the following results:

- The first reporting cycle under the new reporting framework found that 92% of reporting institutions strongly agreed that RSF base funding contributed to sustaining a strong research environment. The cycle also collected 170 investment stories illustrating how RSF base funds are used at Canadian postsecondary institutions, with SSHRC planning to publish a selection of these stories annually on its website.
- The program invested a total of $482.8 million:
  - RSF base program grants totalled $369.4 million, supporting 156 institutions.
  - Grants through the IPG stream totalled $88.7 million, including additional funding provided through Budget 2024. This funding supported 241 projects at 33 institutions.
  - Fifty-two institutions received $24.7 million to support research security capacity building through 119 projects.
- Applications to the 2025–26 RSF grant cycle indicated the following intended use of funds across the five eligible expenditure categories: management and administration of the institution's research enterprise, 37%; research facilities, 27.7%; research resources, 20.2%; regulatory requirements and accreditation, 10.2%; and intellectual property and knowledge mobilization, 4.8%.
- Applications to the 2025–26 IPG stream reflected the following distribution across the four eligible priority areas: facilities renewal, 40.3%; innovation and commercialization activities,

28.9%; information resources, 23.9%; and equity, diversity and faculty renewal (in the context of EDI), 6.9%.
- The next evaluation of the RSF advanced with the finalization of the evaluation design and questions, completion of an administrative data review and jurisdictional scan, and launch of an institutional survey. The evaluation examines the program's relevance, implementation, performance monitoring and cost-efficiency, including for the IPG stream.

Resources required to achieve results

Table 4 provides a summary of the planned and actual spending and full-time equivalents required to achieve results.

Table 4: Snapshot of resources required for institutional support for the indirect costs of research

Resource	Planned	Actual
Spending	$483,683,355	$482,761,946
Full-time equivalents	6	6

The Finances section of the Infographic for SSHRC on GC Infobase and the People section of the Infographic for SSHRC on GC Infobase provide complete financial and human resources information related to its program inventory.

Related government priorities

This section highlights government priorities that are being addressed through this core responsibility.

Gender-based Analysis Plus

Due to the nature of the program, self-identification data are not collected for the RSF, as applicants are institutions, not individuals.

Program inventory

Institutional support for the indirect costs of research is supported by the following programs:

- Research Support Fund

Additional information related to the program inventory for Institutional support for the indirect costs of research is available on the Results page on GC InfoBase.

Internal services

In this section

- Description
- Progress on results

- Resources required to achieve results
- Risk and compliance process
- Contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses

Description

Internal services are the activities and resources that support a department in meeting its corporate obligations and delivering its programs. The 10 categories of internal services are:

- acquisition management services
- communications services
- financial management services
- human resources management services
- information management services
- information technology services
- legal services
- material management services
- management and oversight services
- real property management services

Progress on results

This section presents details on how the department performed to achieve results and meet targets for internal services.

To execute its mandate effectively and efficiently, SSHRC continued to strengthen the internal services that support the delivery of programs to Canada's research community. In 2025–26, the agency focused on modernizing tools and processes, advancing secure digital services, supporting an agile and inclusive workforce, and strengthening stewardship and governance. These efforts helped improve service reliability, reduce administrative burden, and support responsible management of public funds.

Modernizing SSHRC's operations

SSHRC has continued to collaborate with NSERC and CIHR on the multiyear implementation of the Tri-agency grants management solution (TGMS), which will modernize how the agencies manage grants, and support a more efficient experience for researchers and institutions. In 2025–26, the project strengthened governance and delivery planning, incorporated feedback from staff and the research community, and completed key project documentation to support the next phase of development.

SSHRC continued to improve internal tools and processes to support more efficient operations and responsive services. In addition to issuing a first wave of Microsoft Copilot licences for staff to assess how AI can support their work, the agency continued to assess how AI could improve efficiency, reduce administrative effort and enhance internal services. Areas explored include streamlining routine processes, improving access to information, supporting accessibility and

language services, and strengthening data-informed decision making. The agency also introduced new tools that provide staff with timely financial and workforce information.

As part of its digital modernization efforts, SSHRC launched a renewed website, improving accessibility, navigation and the user experience while aligning with Government of Canada digital standards, and prepared for the implementation of a new cloud-based access to information and privacy case management system to support more efficient and reliable service delivery.

SSHRC continued to strengthen cybersecurity, operational resilience and technology support to safeguard the systems, information and services relied on by applicants, institutions, reviewers and employees. In collaboration with Shared Services Canada and other federal partners, the agency implemented new security controls, cloud security assessment and continuous monitoring capabilities, and infrastructure upgrades to comply with Government of Canada cybersecurity, technology and workplace standards.

Enabling an agile and modern workforce

SSHRC continued to invest in the workforce, policies and workplace conditions needed to deliver high-quality public services. The agency strengthened its human resources policy framework and delegation of authorities' tool, revised its Code of Conduct to reinforce values and ethics in the federal public service, and updated its workplace harassment and violence prevention policy and early resolution processes. SSHRC also advanced initiatives to support accessibility, employment equity, official languages, antiracism and leadership development, helping build a capable, inclusive workforce that is better equipped to serve the research community.

Effective stewardship

SSHRC strengthened its financial stewardship and internal governance to support responsible management of public funds and effective program delivery. In 2025–26, the agency supported Budget 2025 and the Comprehensive Expenditure Review initiative by ensuring reduction targets were met and operational efficiencies were identified. This included limiting travel and large in-person events, replacing mobile devices with softphones, and streamlining ongoing operations across the organization, among other efficiency measures. SSHRC enhanced how it oversees the use of public funds by improving financial monitoring across all Canadian institutions that receive funding. It also updated who can approve financial decisions, and modernized the rules and controls for spending on financial transactions, travel, hospitality and procurement. These changes help ensure public funds are managed responsibly, consistently and transparently.

The agency updated the Tri-agency Guide on Financial Administration, including guidance related to the Buy Canadian Policy, to help researchers and institutions understand their responsibilities when administering agency funds. SSHRC also enhanced governance for internal services shared with NSERC, to support consistent service delivery, clearer decision-making and continued modernization.

Resources required to achieve results

Table 5 provides a summary of the planned and actual spending and full-time equivalents required to achieve results.

Table 5: Resources required for internal services for 2025–26

Resource	Planned	Actual
Spending	$20,716,018	$20,224,514
Full-time equivalents	136	144

The Finances section of the Infographic for SSHRC on GC Infobase and the People section of the Infographic for SSHRC on GC Infobase provide complete financial and human resources information related to its program inventory.

Risk and compliance process

The risk and compliance process (RCP) is a self-assessment designed to help deputy heads verify that they have controls and practices in place to meet their accountabilities under legislation and Treasury Board policy, and to effectively manage risks within their departments.

In 2025-26, SSHRC completed the RCP self-assessment. Results indicate that the organization has appropriate practices and controls in place across most areas. Opportunities for improvement were identified in two areas.

To address the findings, SSHRC will continue strengthening existing mechanisms and develop additional reporting tools. While the agency has established key roles and responsibilities to support a strong ethical culture—including dedicated resources and designated oversight functions—it plans in 2026–27 to develop a report or dashboard on wrongdoing and misconduct, to further enhance monitoring and reporting. Another gap identified through the assessment has since been addressed through the approval of an organizational workplace assessment and preventative measures action plan, strengthening alignment with maturity requirements.

Looking ahead, initiatives such as TGMS, AI integration and financial process improvements are expected to further support organizational maturity and continuous improvement.

Contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses

Government of Canada departments are required to award at least 5% of the total value of contracts to Indigenous businesses every year.

As shown in Table 6, SSHRC awarded 9.57% of the total value of all contracts to Indigenous businesses for the fiscal year.

Table 6: Total value of contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses

Contracting performance indicator	2025–26 result
Total value of contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses (A)	$804,677
Total value of contracts awarded to Indigenous and non-Indigenous businesses (B)	$8,411,395

Contracting performance indicator	2025–26 result
Value of exceptions approved by deputy head (C)	$ NIL
Proportion of contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses [A / (B–C) × 100]	9.57%

Notes

For the purposes of the minimum 5% target, Indigenous Services Canada defines "Indigenous businesses" as:

- businesses owned and operated by Elders, band and tribal councils
- businesses registered in the Government of Canada's Indigenous Business Directory
- businesses registered on a modern treaty beneficiary business list

A "contract" is a binding agreement for the procurement of a good, service or construction and does not include real property leases. It includes contract amendments and contracts entered into by means of acquisition cards of more than $10,000.

SSHRC awarded 9.57% of its total contract dollars to businesses identified through the Procurement Strategy for Indigenous Businesses (PSIB), exceeding the Government of Canada's minimum 5% target. SSHRC remains committed to meeting or exceeding this target and will continue working with internal stakeholders and Indigenous Services Canada to support Indigenous business participation in federal procurement.

To advance this commitment, SSHRC is taking concrete actions to increase opportunities for Indigenous businesses, including providing training for procurement personnel; integrating early engagement strategies for business owners to consider PSIB in their procurement requirements; promoting the use of guidance materials to help internal stakeholders optimize Indigenous business participation; and encouraging the use of the Indigenous Business Directory to assess Indigenous business capacity and identify potential suppliers.

In its 2026–27 Departmental Plan, SSHRC estimated that it would award 5% of the total value of its contracts to Indigenous businesses by the end of 2025–26.

Spending and human resources

In this section

- Spending
- Funding
- Financial statement highlights
- Human resources

Spending

This section presents an overview of the department's actual and planned expenditures from 2023–24 to 2028–29.

Budgetary performance summary

Table 7 shows the money that SSHRC spent in each of the past three years on its core responsibilities and on internal services.

Table 7: Actual three-year spending on core responsibilities and internal services (dollars)

Core responsibilities and internal services	2025–26 Main Estimates	2025–26 total authorities available for use	Actual spending over three years (authorities used)
Funding social sciences and humanities research and training	$823,998,655	$826,249,587	2023–24: $688,843,894 2024–25: $806,072,152 2025–26: $824,913,146
Institutional support for the indirect costs of research	$483,683,355	$482,800,328	2023–24: $452,184,756 2024–25: $467,378,554 2025–26: $482,761,946
Subtotal	**$1,307,682,010**	**$1,309,049,915**	**2023–24: $1,141,028,650** **2024–25: $1,273,450,706** **2025–26: $1,307,675,092**
Internal services	$20,716,018	$21,393,132	2023–24: $19,306,751 2024–25: $23,817,251 2025–26: $20,224,514
Total	**$1,328,398,028**	**$1,330,443,047**	**2023–24: $1,160,335,401** **2024–25: $1,297,267,958** **2025–26: $1,327,899,606**

Analysis of the past three years of spending

Spending increased over the past three years, primarily due to investments announced in Budget 2024, including increased funding for core research grants, the launch of the Canada Research Training Awards Suite, and investments to strengthen Indigenous research capacity.

The Finances section of the Infographic for SSHRC on GC Infobase provides more financial information from previous years.

Planned spending for next three years

Table 8 shows SSHRC's planned spending for each of the next three years on its core responsibilities and on internal services.

Table 8: Planned three-year spending on core responsibilities and internal services (dollars)

Core responsibilities and internal services	2026–27 planned spending	2027–28 planned spending	2028–29 planned spending
Funding social sciences and humanities research and training	$875,722,132	$850,393,746	$879,454,651
Institutional support for the indirect costs of research	$510,162,064	$554,695,720	$602,834,780
Subtotal	**$1,385,884,196**	**$1,405,089,466**	**$1,482,289,431**
Internal services	$22,534,474	$19,899,803	$20,526,629
Total	**$1,408,418,670**	**$1,424,989,269**	**$1,502,816,060**

Analysis of the next three years of planned spending

Planned spending is expected to increase in future years primarily due to investments announced in Budget 2024 and Budget 2025. These investments include additional funding for:

- Core research grants
- The Canada Research Training Awards Suite
- Indigenous research capacity initiatives
- The Eddie Goldenberg Research Chairs of Canada and Canada Impact+ Emerging Leaders programs
- The Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards

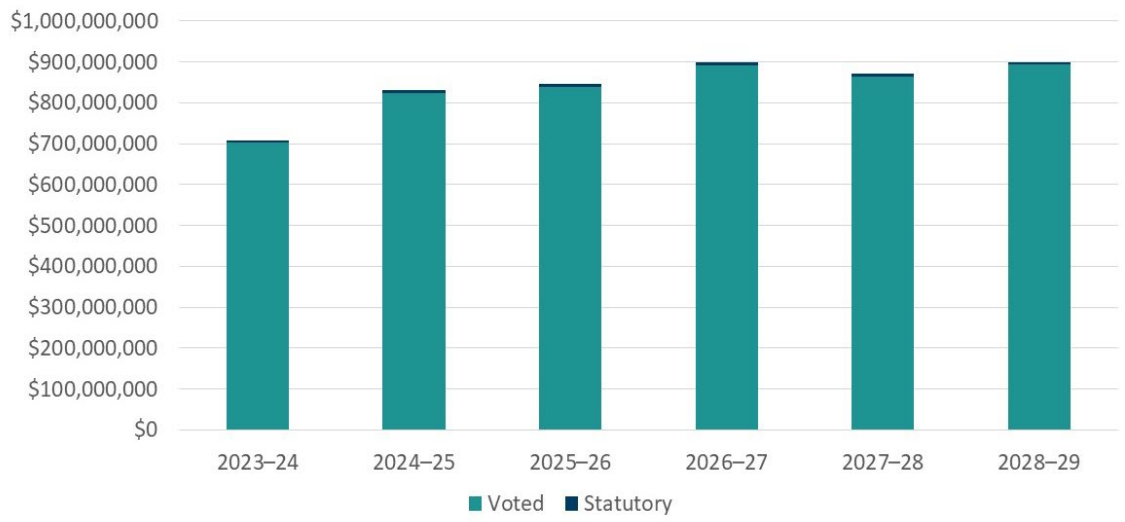
The Finances section of the Infographic for SSHRC on GC Infobase provides more detailed financial information related to future years.

Funding

This section provides an overview of the department's voted and statutory funding for its core responsibilities and for internal services.

Graphs 1 and 2 summarize the department's approved voted and statutory funding from 2023–24 to 2028–29.

Graph 1: Approved funding (statutory and voted) over a six-year period (excluding the Research Support Fund)



Text version of Graph 1

Fiscal year	Statutory	Voted	Total
2023–24	$5,000,000	$703,000,000	$708,000,000
2024–25	$7,000,000	$823,000,000	$830,000,000
2025–26	$6,000,000	$839,000,000	$845,000,000
2026–27	$6,000,000	$892,000,000	$898,000,000
2027–28	$6,000,000	$864,000,000	$870,000,000
2028–29	$6,000,000	$894,000,000	$900,000,000

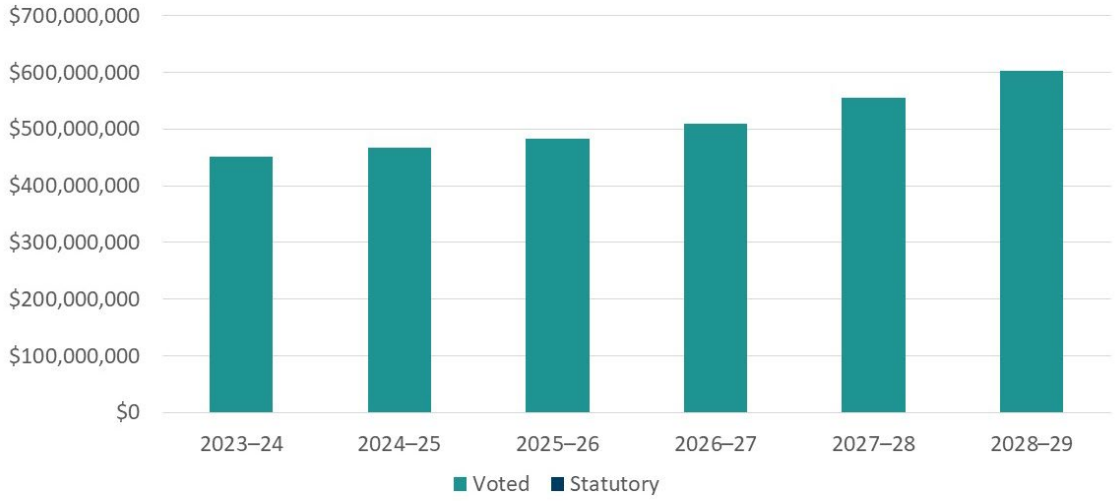
Analysis of statutory and voted funding over a six-year period

Planned spending is expected to slightly increase in future years primarily due to investments announced in Budget 2024 and Budget 2025. These investments include additional funding for:

- Core research grants
- The Canada Research Training Awards Suite
- Indigenous research capacity initiatives
- The Eddie Goldenberg Research Chairs of Canada and Canada Impact+ Emerging Leaders programs
- The Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards

The overall increase is partially offset by a decrease in planned spending resulting from the end of the Canada Biomedical Research Fund and the Sustainable Agriculture Research Initiative.

Graph 2: Approved funding (statutory and voted) over a six-year period solely for the Research Support Fund



Text version of Graph 2

Fiscal year	Statutory	Voted	Total
2023–24	$0	$452,000,000	$452,000,000
2024–25	$0	$467,000,000	$467,000,000
2025–26	$0	$483,000,000	$483,000,000
2026–27	$0	$510,000,000	$510,000,000
2027–28	$0	$555,000,000	$555,000,000
2028–29	$0	$603,000,000	$603,000,000

Analysis of statutory and voted funding over a six-year period

The RSF is a tri-agency program administered by SSHRC on behalf of the three federal research funding agencies. Given its unique nature and distinct budget, the results of the program are reported under a separate core responsibility in SSHRC's Departmental Results Framework, and its financial information is presented in a separate spending graph. SSHRC received an ongoing increase in funding in Budget 2024 for the RSF in support of increasing core research grant funding.

Consult the Public Accounts of Canada for further information on SSHRC's departmental voted and statutory expenditures.

Financial statement highlights

This section presents SSHRC's Financial statements (unaudited) for the year ended March 31, 2026.

Table 9 summarizes the expenses and revenues for 2025–26, which net to the cost of operations before government funding and transfers.

Table 9: Condensed Statement of Operations (unaudited) for the year ended March 31, 2026 (dollars)

Financial information	2025–26 actual results	2025–26 planned results	Difference (actual results minus planned)
Total expenses	$1,328,437,309	$1,327,447,814	$989,495
Total revenues	$1,663,152	$107,962	$1,555,190
Net cost of operations before government funding and transfers	$1,326,774,157	$1,327,339,852	-$565,695

Analysis of expenses and revenues for 2025–26

The net cost of operations before government funding and transfers was lower than planned, mainly due to higher-than-expected revenues from user charges under SSHRC's enabling statute.

The 2025–26 planned results information is provided in SSHRC's Future-Oriented Statement of Operations and Notes 2025–26.

Table 10 summarizes actual expenses and revenues and shows the net cost of operations before government funding and transfers.

Table 10: Condensed Statement of Operations (unaudited) for 2024–25 and 2025–26 (dollars)

Financial information	2025–26 actual results	2024–25 actual results	Difference (2025–26 minus 2024–25)
Total expenses	$1,328,437,309	$1,300,691,383	$27,745,926
Total revenues	$1,663,152	$847,587	$815,565
Net cost of operations before government funding and transfers	$1,326,774,157	$1,299,843,796	$26,930,361

Analysis of differences in expenses and revenues between 2024–25 and 2025–26

The increase in total expenses from the previous year is mainly attributable to funding from Budget 2024 to increase the value of scholarships, postdoctoral awards and core research grant funding.

Table 11 provides a brief snapshot of the amounts the department owes or must spend (liabilities) and its available resources (assets), which helps to indicate its ability to carry out programs and services.

Table 11: Condensed Statement of Financial Position (unaudited) as at March 31, 2026 (dollars)

Financial information	Actual fiscal year (2025–26)	Previous fiscal year (2024–25)	Difference (2025–26 minus 2024–25)
Total net liabilities	$9,588,161	$10,651,041	-$1,062,880
Total net financial assets	$6,833,907	$7,990,894	-$1,156,987
Departmental net debt	$2,754,254	$2,660,147	$94,107
Total non-financial assets	$1,959,227	$2,164,029	-$204,802
Departmental net financial position	-$795,027	-$496,118	-$298,909

Analysis of department's liabilities and assets since last fiscal year

Net liabilities decreased because SSHRC had fewer outstanding amounts payable at year-end, mainly to other government departments. Net financial assets decreased mainly due to a reduction in funding to be received from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, which more than offset an increase in receivables.

Human resources

This section presents an overview of the department's actual and planned human resources from 2023–24 to 2028–29.

Table 12 shows a summary in full-time equivalents of human resources for SSHRC's core responsibilities and for its internal services for the previous three fiscal years.

Table 12: Actual human resources for core responsibilities and internal services for the last three years

Core responsibilities and internal services	2023–24 actual full-time equivalents	2024–25 actual full-time equivalents	2025–26 actual full-time equivalents
Funding social sciences and humanities research and training	258	275	277
Institutional support for the indirect costs of research	6	6	6
Subtotal	**264**	**281**	**283**
Internal services	123	137	144

Core responsibilities and internal services	2023–24 actual full-time equivalents	2024–25 actual full-time equivalents	2025–26 actual full-time equivalents
Total	**387**	**418**	**427**

Analysis of human resources for the last three years

Full-time equivalent positions increased over the past three years primarily due to investments announced in Budget 2024. Additional resources were required to support the following new programs and initiatives:

- The increased funding for core research grants
- The Canada Research Training Awards Suite
- Indigenous research capacity initiatives

Table 13 shows the planned full-time equivalents for each of SSHRC's core responsibilities and for its internal services for the next three years. Human resources for the current fiscal year are forecast based on year to date.

Table 13: Human resources planning summary for core responsibilities and internal services for the next three years

Core responsibilities and internal services	2026–27 planned full-time equivalents	2027–28 planned full-time equivalents	2028–29 planned full-time equivalents
Funding social sciences and humanities research and training	273	261	258
Institutional support for the indirect costs of research	6	6	6
Subtotal	**279**	**267**	**264**
Internal services	129	113	112
Total	**408**	**380**	**376**

Analysis of human resources for the next three years

The decrease in planned full-time equivalents over the forecast period reflects the end of the Canada Biomedical Research Fund and the Sustainable Agriculture Research Initiative, and Comprehensive Expenditure Review reductions.

Supplementary information tables

The following supplementary information tables are available on SSHRC's website:

- Details on transfer payment programs
- Gender-based Analysis Plus

Federal tax expenditures

The tax system can be used to achieve public policy objectives through the application of special measures such as low tax rates, exemptions, deductions, deferrals and credits. The Department of Finance Canada publishes cost estimates and projections for these measures each year in the Report on Federal Tax Expenditures. This report also provides detailed background information on tax expenditures, including descriptions, objectives, historical information and references to related federal spending programs as well as evaluations and GBA Plus of tax expenditures.

Corporate information

Departmental profile

Appropriate minister(s): The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

Institutional head: Normand Labrie, Interim SSHRC President

Ministerial portfolio: Innovation, Science and Industry

Enabling instrument(s): *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. S-12

Year of incorporation or commencement: 1977

Departmental contact information

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Definitions

appropriation (crédit)

Any authority of Parliament to pay money out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

budgetary expenditures (dépenses budgétaires)

Operating and capital expenditures; transfer payments to other levels of government, departments or individuals; and payments to Crown corporations.

core responsibility (responsabilité essentielle)

An enduring function or role of a department. The departmental results listed for a core responsibility reflect the outcomes that the department seeks to influence or achieve.

Departmental Plan (plan ministériel)

A report that outlines the anticipated activities and expected performance of an appropriated department over a three-year period. Departmental plans are usually tabled in Parliament in spring.

departmental priority (priorité)

A plan, project or activity that a department focuses and reports on during a specific planning period. Priorities represent the most important things to be done or those to be addressed first to help achieve the desired departmental results.

departmental result (résultat ministériel)

A high-level outcome related to the core responsibilities of a department.

departmental result indicator (indicateur de résultat ministériel)

A quantitative or qualitative measure that assesses progress toward a departmental result.

departmental results framework (cadre ministériel des résultats)

A framework that connects the department's core responsibilities to its departmental results and departmental result indicators.

Departmental Results Report (rapport sur les résultats ministériels)

A report outlining a department's accomplishments against the plans, priorities and expected results set out in the corresponding Departmental Plan.

full-time equivalent (équivalent temps plein)

Measures the person years in a departmental budget. An employee's scheduled hours per week divided by the employer's hours for a full-time workweek calculates a full-time equivalent. For example, an employee who works 20 hours in a 40-hour standard workweek represents a 0.5 full-time equivalent.

Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) (analyse comparative entre les sexes plus [ACS Plus])

An analytical tool that helps to understand the ways diverse individuals experience policies, programs and other initiatives. Applying GBA Plus to policies, programs and other initiatives helps to identify the different needs of the people affected, the ways to be more responsive and inclusive, and the methods to anticipate and mitigate potential barriers to accessing or benefitting from the initiative. GBA Plus goes beyond biological (sex) and socio-cultural (gender) differences to consider

other factors, such as age, disability, education, ethnicity, economic status, geography (including rurality), language, race, religion, and sexual orientation.

government priorities (priorités pangouvernementales)

For the purpose of the 2025–26 Departmental Results Report, government priorities are the high-level themes outlining the government's agenda as announced in the 2025 Speech from the Throne.

horizontal initiative (initiative horizontale)

A program, project or other initiative where two or more federal departments receive funding to work collaboratively on a shared outcome usually linked to a government priority, and where the ministers involved agree to designate it as horizontal. Specific reporting requirements apply, including that the lead department must report on combined expenditures and results.

Indigenous business (entreprise autochtones)

Requirements for verifying Indigenous businesses for the purposes of the Departmental Results Report are available through the Indigenous Services Canada Mandatory minimum 5% Indigenous procurement target website.

non-budgetary expenditures (dépenses non budgétaires)

Net outlays and receipts related to loans, investments and advances, which change the composition of the financial assets of the Government of Canada.

performance (rendement)

What a department did with its resources to achieve its results, how well those results compare to what the department intended to achieve, and how well lessons learned have been identified.

performance indicator (indicateur de rendement)

A qualitative or quantitative measure that assesses progress toward a departmental-level or program-level result, or the expected outputs or outcomes of a program, policy or initiative.

plan (plan)

The articulation of strategic choices, which provides information on how a department intends to achieve its priorities and associated results. Generally, a plan will explain the logic behind the strategies chosen, and tend to focus on actions that lead to the expected result.

planned spending (dépenses prévues)

For departmental plans and departmental results reports, planned spending refers to the amounts presented in Main Estimates. Departments must determine their planned spending and be able to defend the financial numbers presented in their departmental plans and departmental results reports.

program (programme)

An Individual, group, or combination of services and activities managed together within a department and focused on a specific set of outputs, outcomes or service levels.

program inventory (répertoire des programmes)

A listing that identifies all the department's programs and the resources that contribute to delivering on the department's core responsibilities and achieving its results.

result (résultat)

An outcome or output related to the activities of a department, policy, program or initiative.

statutory expenditures (dépenses législatives)

Spending approved through legislation passed in Parliament, other than appropriation acts. The legislation sets out the purpose and the terms and conditions of the expenditures.

target (cible)

A quantitative or qualitative, measurable goal that a department, program or initiative plans to achieve within a specified time period.

voted expenditures (dépenses votées)

Spending approved annually through an appropriation act passed in Parliament. The vote also outlines the conditions that govern the spending.